

Oh My Goddess!

The cover art features a close-up of Belldandy, a blonde-haired goddess with blue eyes, looking directly at the viewer. She is holding a golden, ornate object, possibly a part of her divine equipment. The background is a vibrant green.

ああっ女神さまっ

21

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

21



STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
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Suzie Lee AND Betty Deng
WITH Tom2K



DARK HORSE MANGA™

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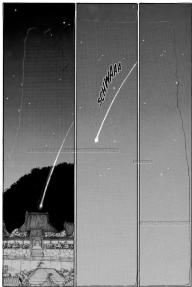
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CHAPTER 130

The Devil Inside













HEE KY!



BOOM BOOM?



BOOM?

THANK YOU CAN YOU SCREECH A LITTLE LOUDER?



BOOM

























THIS DEMON'S
NAME?



ALL THE
OTHER
GOODIES
ARE
DOING
SOMETHING.

EXACTLY-
AHEH.

WATCH
IT...



BLIND
IS
HE
WAS
BLIND
TO
THE
HUMAN
PLANE.

VELDRA.













OH MY GODDESS!

BELLDANDY



Go Your Own Way



IT'S
A
SWAP...

SURE...

...THE
MAY
I
HOLD?

...BACK...

TURN
THE
BACK...





IT WORKED!

THAT'S ALL.



HOY-LAP

EH? THAT'S ALL?



AND DON'T
"DONA DONA"
WHILE
STANDING
ON ONE
LEG.

HOLD
YOUR
FINGERS
LIKE THIS...



EH?
H?
?!

... YOU'RE
A CAT?









SCOOOORE
FIRST-
CLASS
SHOULDN'T
LOVE



RIGHT??







REALLY
...

IS
NO-
THING!



I
FOUND
ANOTHER
ONE!



WHAT
IS
IT?

?

...



WELL,
DANCE'S
DEED
WAS
GOOD...





...WITH
VILPERS
LIKE
THAT...



DOY
THERE'S
A
SOLUTION
BUT...



SO
WHAT
DO
WE
DO?

...WE
HACK
VILPERS'S
SPELL!

THAT'S
IT, THEN...



BUT
EVEN THE
CONCORD
ARMY
COULDN'T-

SWAY!

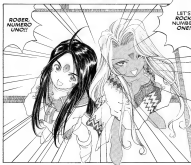


WHAT
POOTH
SAID...

I
CAN'T
SET IT
OUT
OF MY
HEAD, SAID

































END CHAPTER 131

OH MY GODDESS!

P E O R T H



A Goddess Never Forgets











































BACK
WHEN...



OF
QUIT?

ORAS
I DO
WANT
TO ASK
YOU
SOMETHING.



GOOD
POINT.



...UNTIL
I
BECAM
FEARED.

WHEN
VEUSSEN
SAID HE'D
BRING
BACK
FRANK...



!



ALWAYS
HAVE
BEEN.
ALWAYS
WILL
BE.

FOLLOWERS
ON? ETC.
FOLLOWERS
SO? ETC.

WE'RE
VOYAGING
A FEW
18
THOUSAND
ACROSS
TIME.











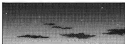


...LIVE
FOREVER
IN
OUR
HEARTS.

THE
PEOPLE
WE
GODDRESS LOVE...







OH MY GODDESS!

BELLDANDY



CHAPTER 133

The Cat That Stretched











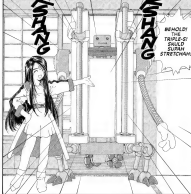




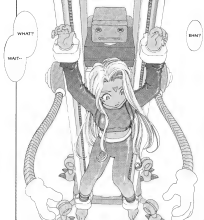
























AS A
MOTOR-
CYCLE
PRO...



IT'S
A
GOOD
TRICK.



YOU
DON'T
GET
IT, DO
YOU?

BUT
NOT
ENOUGH
TO
MOVE...



...BUT
ONLY
ONE
ADVANCED
PERCENT

...ALL
GET
BACKWARD...

RIGHT,
MAYBE
BE ONE
THEM!



Epilogue



PROBABLY
GOOD NEWS!



!



WE
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
CAN'T--











—
—

...CASTING IT
WOULD MEET A
SODDISE.

WITH A
HEAVENLY
PROGRAM
Laid
ON TOP
OF IT...

A
DEMONIC
BLOOD
SPELL...









OH MY GODDESS!

VELSPER



The Final Option







IT'S
NOT
POSSIBLE.











WELL
I STILL
HAVE
POWER

SHEET
SPEAK



IT'S A
PILINE
BAGGAGE
INFORMATIVE

TO THE
BOWE

ONE
IF
CURE

NOOD
TO
FALL

CAT





























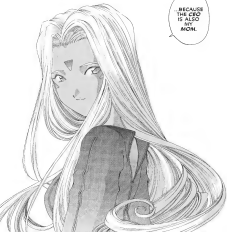








WELL...



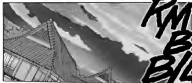
BECAUSE
THE CEO
IS ALSO
MY
MOM.



CHAPTER 135

She's A Devil Woman





KOP

KRAK KRAK
KRAK KRAK
KRAK KRAK

DOWNING!





スズカゼ









MOM... DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE?



—ABSOLUTELY
ADAPT—

USUALLY WE'D
BEHOLD A
LITTLE MORE
LIKE THIS—

THEN,
HER
FULL
POWER...?

THOSE
ARE
SPACE

SEE
HER HAIR
AND
ARM
ORNAMENTS?

SHE
IS

IS SHE
REALLY
THAT
POWERFUL?























--SCREAMED
UP AT
THAT
IT?



YES



OH,
PLEASE!

IF SHE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
YODHRAEL,
WE
ABSOLUTELY
MADE UP
FOR THAT!

AS
FOR THIS
ONGOING
LITTLE
DIP
BETWEEN
THE GAYS
AND
DEMONS--

--ANY-
THING
DOES
AS LONG
AS NO
ONE'S
KILLED.



ALWAYS
SEEK
FOR
COLOR

THE
WAY
SHE
LOOKS
AT
ME...

ALSO
EAGER
OF
DISEASE

NOW
I
SEE
HER...







I
HON'T
ACCEPT
THAT
CONDITION.

END CHAPTER 135

Continued In
Oh My Goddess Vol. 22!

10150
Card Eastern Hill

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Figure 1

Figure 1

letters to the

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NOTE: Full addresses and e-mail addresses will not be printed, unless you ask! All fan artwork, letters, and e-mails submitted become the property of Dark Horse Comics.

Welcome back to the English-language edition of Koushi Fujishiro's *Oh My Goddess!* Before we get to readers' letters, a few words on the occasion of this, the big switch (if you're reading Vol. 21 from left-to-right out of force of habit, this section will explain readers "A") as to where *Oh My Goddess!* came from, and where it's going to.

OMG! first appeared in English from Dark Horse as a monthly comic book in August of 1994. Skipping a few months here and there, *OMG!* ran just over a decade in the comics format, up to issue #112, released in September 2004—a marathon matched by few manga in the U.S., in any format, before or since. Although the pace seems slow compared to today's rapidly released manga graphic novels, it's worth noting that one chapter a month is also the "natural" pace of release for *OMG!* in Japan, where it appears (alongside such other Dark Horse manga titles as *Excitation*, *Guns&Sis*, *Blade of the Immortal*, *Sengoku Feather*, and *Shadow Star*) in Kodansha's monthly magazine *Afternoon*.

Between 1996 and 2006, the stories from the monthly comics were collected by Dark Horse into 19 separate graphic novels (the last one having the number "19/20" on it—see below). In order, these were Vol. 1: *Wang Numbler*; Vol. 2: *Leader of the Pack*; Vol. 3: *Final Exorcist*; Vol. 4: *Love Poken No. 9*; Vol. 5:

Sympathy For The Devil; Vol. 6: *Terrible Master Urd*; Vol. 7: *The Queen of Vengeance*; Vol. 8: *Mass Striker Back*; Vol. 9: *Ninja Master*; Vol. 10: *Miss Ketchup*; Vol. 11: *The Devil in Miss Urd*; Vol. 12: *The Fourth Goddess*; Vol. 13: *Childhood's End*; Vol. 14: *Queen Sayoko*; Vol. 15: *Hand in Hand*; Vol. 16: *Mystery Child*; Vol. 17: *Traveler*; Vol. 18: *The Phantom Rider*; and Vol. 19/20: *Sora Unchained*.

All of those monthly issues and volumes mentioned above—indeed, everything in the story before Vol. 21—were done "lapped," that is, reading *Watanemitsu*, left-to-right. Starting here, with Vol. 21, and from this point forward, the story will be done "unlapped," that is, reading as it was originally printed in Japan, right-to-left.

If you've been reading the Dark Horse edition of *OMG!* before, the most important thing to know is that this book, Vol. 21, is a direct continuation of the story from the last volume in the series published in Western (that is, "lapped") reading order, January 2005's *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 19/20: *Sora Unchained*. You haven't missed a thing by going from 19/20 straight to 21.

Why "19/20"? While technically, as mentioned above, it was the 19th volume of *Oh My Goddess!* published by Dark Horse, *Sora Unchained* contained all the chapters of the story that ran in the 20th volume of *OMG!* as published in Japan. It's not that any Japanese volumes have been "lapped," story-wise, but that Dark Horse traditionally slotted up the *OMG!* chapters by story arc, unlike the Japanese original

volumes, which often end in the middle of a story arc.

That means previous Dark Horse OAG! volumes have always contained a run of chapters that, in Japan, were spread out over two or even three volumes. For example, *Sora Unchained* may have been Dark Horse's 19th volume of *Oh My Goddess!*, but most of its material actually ran in the Japanese Vol. 20, with only the last two chapters of the Japanese Vol. 19 appearing in *Sora Unchained*.

The earlier chapters of the Japanese Vol. 19, by the way, appeared in Dark Horse's Vol. 18: *The Phantom Ace*—which also contained the last three chapters of the Japanese Vol. 18. So in reality, *The Phantom Ace*, like *Sora Unchained*, could have had a "split" number, too—in this case, *The Phantom Ace* would have been Vol. 18/19. The same would have been true of almost every single volume of the previous edition of OAG!—Vol. 12: *Traveler* contained Japanese Vol. 13/14, Vol. 16: *Mystery Child*, contained Japanese Vol. 16/17, and so on, going back to the very beginning.

Of course, the fact that one Dark Horse volume of *Oh My Goddess!* almost always contained parts of two Japanese volumes (the single exception was the very first Vol. 1: *Wrong Number*, which only contained stories from the Japanese Vol. 1—but not the Japanese Vol. 1's last chapter, which became the starting point of Vol. 2: *Leader of the Pack*, and...you get the picture) was, practically speaking, irrelevant, as long as no stories were left out, and all the chapters were run in the correct order (the monthly issues did originally have some chapters out of order, but not the actual collected volumes).

AT LAST: THE POINT

The whole issue only becomes relevant at this time, because in addition to doing all future volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* right-to-left, Dark Horse also is switching to be in sync

with the content of the Japanese volumes. Therefore, what's in this book, OAG! Vol. 21, is exactly what's in the original Japanese Vol. 21. And that's why *Sora Unchained*, the 19th Dark Horse volume, had a "19/20" on it, as a reminder it also contains the Japanese Vol. 20. We felt that if we just called it "Vol. 19" and had the next one be "Vol. 21," people would naturally think they'd missed part of the story—which isn't true.

Well, that was simple. ^.^ The bottom line is that you're not missing any of the story by going from *Sora Unchained* to Vol. 21. The last chapter in *Sora Unchained*, "The Endless Battle, Part Two," is the 129th chapter in *Oh My Goddess!* (the first chapter in Vol. 21, "The Devil Inside," is the 130th chapter). This, of course, brings up another difference you'll notice—in the original Japanese, the various story chapters of OAG! had not only titles, but were numbered in order. From now on, those numbers will be included with the chapter titles. Conversely, in the original Japanese editions, the volumes themselves only had numbers, but no titles. So Vol. 19/20: *Sora Unchained* was also the last Dark Horse volume with a title—Vol. 21 is just plain "Vol. 21."

Now that we're in sync with the Japanese arrangement of the series from Vol. 21 on, Dark Horse plans to also go back and re-release all the previous parts of *Oh My Goddess!*—that is, the stuff from Vol. 1: *Wrong Number* to Vol. 19/20: *Sora Unchained*. This time, however, the stories will be packaged in the same format as Vol. 21—right-to-left, broken up as the original Japanese volumes were, and with the same changes in titling and format mentioned above.

In October this program will begin with *Oh My Goddess* Vol. 1. At that point Dark Horse will switch off between "new" and "old" volumes every two months. So, in December will come OAG! Vol. 22; in February 2006, OAG! Vol. 2; in April OAG! Vol. 23, and so

obtain timely clearance to have Peorin sing it in the English version. Therefore readers are encouraged to get interactive and sing it themselves when they reach this page. The editor will accompany on acoustic guitar.

Dear Enchantress,

I, as a huge fan of *Oh My Goddess*, am thrilled to hear you've decided to keep the letters and fan art section from the single issues present in the new graphic novel releases for Dark Horse. It's always refreshing to hear how other fans that love these characters and this series as much as I do, was wondering if Dark Horse will also consider putting in the life pictures of the creator, Kosuke Fujishima, and the life inserts he writes for the Japanese TTB releases? He's my favorite mangaka and I'd definitely like to know more about the genius that created my favorite series of all time. Besides that, keep up with what you're already doing, you guys are doing an amazing job with this series!

Yasley aka "Kaichi-chan"

(Please feel free to print my email address.)

Kaichi1@aol.com

"Mangaka," sometimes written "manga-ka," means manga creator, if y'all didn't know. Certainly part of our plan is to include such things as Mr. Fujishima's pictures and notes when they occur in the original Japanese volumes. This was something he more commonly did in the earlier volumes of *Oh My Goddess* than more recent ones—for example, he doesn't do it in Vol. 31, whereas you should see it in when the new edition of Vol. 1 comes out in October. Thank you for your compliments on OMOG as you can see above, the job has taken a lot of people to do!

When you go to redo the old OMOG stories in the "new" slightly larger format, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE change the name "Bloody Ball" to

Bloodlady's angel look to Holy Ball. I can't remember if the other angels were changed, but this one was and it sticks out like a sore thumb, and I hate it. She is called Holy Ball in original Japanese—I have an expensive Bloodlady statue imported from Japan and it is clearly named Holy Ball and this should have been retained in the English release, IMHO. If the other angels have been changed (Noble Scarlet, World of Elegance and Gorgeous Flower, please return them to their original names as well. Please. Pretty please. Pretty please with sugar on top.

The only other thing I'd like to request is a speedier release on "new" volumes. I'd like a new volume a year, with the redone books coming out less frequently . . . since I've already read those stories (though I plan on buying them again, of course) and I'd like to catch up to the Japanese release ASAP. :)

I'd like to also request the redone books retain the bleached white paper of the originals. It gives the books a really high-quality feel, and helped me justify the price I was paying.

I will admit I never really liked the price point of the TTBs, however, you could have charged \$4.00 a book and I probably would have still bought it (don't let management read this, please!).

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope you seriously consider my requested change, as it's the only real complaint I have with the current TTB volumes.

Stephen Arch

via email

Did we say this book was "\$10.95"? We meant "\$10.85." Just dropped a decimal point there.

Part of going to the lower-price, 5" x 7 1/2" format is using the kind of paper that other Dark Horse manga in this format use, as in the case of *Trigun*, *Holting*, or *Berserk*. We don't receive complaints about the format in those manga, but, of course, Dark Horse printed those particular titles in that format

from the very beginning—people are used to it that way. I acknowledge the new format may take time to get used to, but I believe it provides relative value to the older, more expensive edition.

Actually, the paper in this volume should still be slightly brighter than that in the standard Japanese edition (that is, the *Afternoon* SC volumes) of *Oh My Goddess!*. This volume is also almost exactly the same page size as the standard Japanese edition, so, although it has gotten smaller, it's not smaller than the original.

The new format of *Oh My Goddess!* is also going to have two visual "enhancements" that weren't in the original Dark Horse editions.

First of all, manga pages that Mr. Fujishima pointed in color will also be printed in color in the new OAG! editions. This is something he only did on occasion—so you won't see it in every volume—but there will be eight such story pages, for example, in the new Vol. 1 in October. Second, a re-release of the OAG! manga, called the "Complete" edition, is currently ongoing in Japan, too (on the occasion of the new TV anime series) and Fujishima has pointed new covers for these. We're going to use these new covers for the Dark Horse re-release (and include the old cover on a color page, too, if possible).

I understand your request for the new OAG! to come out more often, but we really do want to balance the interests of new readers (the reason for starting over from Vol. 1) and those of established readers (the reason for doing Vol. 21 before the "re-do" of Vol. 1).

I agree on "Holy Bell," but, as you may have seen in the previous volume, *Sore Uchikawan!*, Dark Horse has already returned to that usage (for example, in the scene where Holy Bell conjures a cushion of air to break Katschi's fall). Likewise, we plan to have the various Goddesses' angels' names be the same in English as they are in Japanese,

in any case where they were not already previously so in the "old" edition.

Dear Mr. Fujishima,

You write good and interesting material. It is evident, from what you have written already, that Belldandy, Urd, and Skuld are of important among the goddesses.

May I take note of a contrast, perhaps an inconsistency?

On the one hand, when Belldandy forgets to renew her goddess license she lost the ability to use her power. It was she who had to call Goddess Control. Given her importance it is interesting that the Almighty (Daddy) didn't call her up to rebuke her for forgetting to renew her license. On the other hand, when Urd's license was suspended she immediately got a telephone call informing her, and she had to refrain from trying to use her powers, but her license be permanently revoked. Interesting that we have seen Urd use her powers since *Terrible Master Urd*, even though she is still under suspension and Skuld and Katschi have commented that she is still under supervision. Amusing that we haven't seen Urd, or Belldandy, punished for their infractions during *Terrible Master Urd*.

A query, or a story suggestion: What would Katschi and Skuld do if they were left alone for a period of time? Imagine that Urd and Belldandy got called up to Goddess Control for a few days. Of course Belldandy and Goddess Control would ask Katschi to permit Belldandy to go, and it would be important for Katschi's maturity for him to grant that permission.

Imagine that Skuld is not required to go with Urd and Belldandy, or that Skuld is tasked to stay at the temple. Imagine also that Katschi and Belldandy had been scheduled to do something. Perhaps they are entered in a race. Now Katschi must find someone to take Belldandy's place, choosing among Skuld, his sister Megumi, his boss Chihito, and his co-worker Sora. During all this Katschi and Skuld

are by themselves in the temple and must learn how to act towards each other when no one else is around, while respecting their ties to Bell-dandy and Urd.

Regards,
David Olari
Arlington, TX

"Almighty" seems to be used in a more respectful than literal sense in the OMOI cosmology, considering the rather large staff he possesses—not to mention the apparent strength of the competition; perhaps Hild's title of "CEO" would actually better fit the mark.

In a stronger way, Skuld is the most like Katschi of the Goddess sisters—her being the weakest and youngest of the trio makes her closer to K1's "teenoidy;" and, of course, she is the engineer among the three, whereas Urd specializes in alchemy and Bell-chan is incantations. It's odd that the way Katschi has his hair cut now makes him look more like Santaros. Skuld's first crush from the story "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" in Vol. 13: Childhood's End.

Skuld's earlier relationship towards Katschi seemed a mix of resentment towards him for "trying to take Bell-dandy away," mixed with a jealousy towards Bell-chan for being involved in something more grown-up. Both, of course, are very normal feelings in a family with sisters of different ages. But Skuld indeed seems to have matured somewhat and adjusted to the situation, defining herself now more against Urd—perhaps, because when it comes to trying to find technical solutions to the strange problems always popping up in the OMOI world, Skuld and Urd can compete more as equals; social maturity doesn't enter into it so much—although maybe "maturity" isn't quite the right word to fit Urd. But you know what I mean.

As you say, though, make Urd and Bell-dandy away from the equation and it might

be interesting to see what happens. My first thought is that Skuld, more than anything else, would feel very lonely with both her sisters gone—having been around one or the other of them all her life—and it would probably be difficult for her to get over this. But it's an open question.

That's all for now! Next time, I'll leave out the long-winded explanations (maybe), which means we'll have more room for your letters and fan art. Look out for *Oh My Goddess* Vol. 1 in October and Vol. 22 in December! But wait, there's still more to the Goddesses' future in November: Dark Horse commemorates a special OMOI book never before published in English: the 193-page *Oh My Goddess! Color*.

What's inside *Color*? Original OMOI publisher Kodansha, working with Kazuko Fujishima, produced color versions of four of the best-loved stories from the whole series, each one centering around a particular Goddess, including "The Number You Have Dated Is Incorrect!" when Bell-dandy first comes into Katschi's life; "Urd's Fantastic Adventure," when the eldest of the sisters shrinks to young girl size; the above-mentioned "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," and finally Pearl's arrival in "Are You Being Served?"

In addition to the four stories, *OMOI Color* also contains a bonus original *Oh My Goddess!* eight-page fan manga by, of all people, Yoshitou Asari (he's the guy who designed the Angels' backlist, Shamsel, and Zazel in Neon Genesis Evangelion!), plus special articles: Fujishima's eight-page personal profile of the Goddesses, an 18-page "Encyclopedia of Goddess Terminology," cross-referencing the people, places, and events of the manga series, four pages on the cars, bikes, and planes of the story, two pages on the "Rules of the Goddess' World," and a six-page thumbnail guide to the OMOI story chapters. I think *Oh My Goddess! Color* is something you will want to check out.

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left.

It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind.



Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

21

PEORTH IS BACK! But not back to normal size . . . and while having a new little kid around for Boldandy to try and dress is certainly cute, the save-off Fourth Goddess is not amused—especially when she realizes Yelper, the demon who put her into this short situation, is now himself a tiny black kitten who can't change Peorth back—no matter how much she shakes and throttles him! But Yelper does know someone who could . . . whispering to her the dread name of . . . *Hild!* Who's Hild? Und knows . . . all too well, unfortunately!



Welcome to the future of *Oh My Goddess!* Picking up creator Kasuke Fujishima's story where Vol. 19/20's Sara Unchained left off, Dark Horse now continues *OMG!* In the much-requested, inexpensive right-to-left format!



darkhorse.com